



# MARSHAL MATTERS

## NOVEMBER 2019 EDITION

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**Marshal's Minute-State Fire Marshal Matt Perez**

The holidays are here and that means many will be decorating their homes. Hanging up decorations is fun, but keep in mind, holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) more than two of every five home decoration fires occur due to decorations being placed too close to a heat source. More than one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles. More than half of home decoration fires in December are started by candles. The top three days for home candle fires are Christmas Day, New Year's Day and New Year's Eve. Before you head to bed or out for the evening, blow out all lit candles. Turn off all light string and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

Here are some tips to keep in mind to stay fire safe when decking the halls this holiday season.

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Make sure decorations are either flame retardant or flame resistant.
- Keep lit candles at least 12 inches away from decorations or anything that can catch fire.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Check to make sure your lights are rated for indoor or outdoor use or both.
- Replace any light strands that have worn or broken cords. Make sure you to read the recommendation for number of light strings you can strand together.
- If you have a real Christmas tree, make sure to check water levels daily! It is not unusual for a tree to drink two gallons of water the first day it is in the stand.
- Keep real Christmas trees away from a heat source. It can dry out the tree quickly.

After a busy cooking day on Thanksgiving, before you fire the oven back up preparing the next holiday meal, make sure to clean it! In case of an oven fire, turn off the oven and keep the door closed until it is cool. Clean cook tops as left-over grease can catch fire. Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, but Christmas and Christmas Eve follow closely behind.

If you are planning to host family and friends during the holidays, make sure they are aware of your fire escape plan. Show them where all the exits are in your home and make sure they are aware of the meeting spot's location.

OSFM wishes everyone a happy and safe Holiday Season

## Employee Spotlight



# David Price

## Fiscal Division Manager

**Where are you originally from?** White Hall, Illinois

**Tell us about your family? Kids, Significant other?** I live with one incredibly old, but also incredibly awesome dog named Piper Anne.

**Favorite food(s)?** I'll try anything once but everything off the grill is great with me. Each new city I check out I like to get into a local pizza place too.

**Hobbies?** Grilling, spending time with the dog, try to make it to a different baseball stadium every year, hanging out with my niece, brewery tours, playing golf poorly, doing anything with my Dad.

**What's your favorite movie or book?** **Movie** - Any movie that Tarantino is a part of - top 3 in no particular order – 1. Pulp Fiction 2. Once Upon a Time in Hollywood 3. Django Unchained. **Book** – The Big Short by Michael Lewis.

**When you get in the car what type of music will be coming out of your speakers?** This is a mixed bag, changes several times a day – Kings of Leon, Post Malone, Sturgill Simpson, Mumford and Sons, Alice in Chains, Eric Church, Sinatra, will also work in some ESPN Radio, Joe Rogan, Howard Stern.

**What did you want to be when you were a kid?** Scout for a baseball team. Still waiting for the phone to ring.

**What's your favorite part of the job?** The numbers...just kidding. It's the people. Obviously.

**What's something unique about you?** I have a twin brother. So, if you see me out and I don't talk to you, it's probably not me.

**Where is your favorite place to vacation?** Toughest question on the board. I like to go somewhere quiet and relaxed once a year (wine trails, Jamaica, cabins out of the way, Florida Keys, etc.) and I also like to see a new city once a year (Nashville, Orlando, Kansas City, Milwaukee, etc.).

**Where is your bucket list destination?** Ireland

## Veterans Day Salute- Thank You for your Service!!!



*A few of OSFM's veterans posed for a photo at the Springfield Headquarters. OSFM thanks you and all veterans for your service!*



**Ken Arnold**  
**James Bentley**  
**Michael Douglas**  
**Larry Eaton**  
**Scott Johnson**  
**Ron Fowler**  
**Mitch Kushner**  
**Kevin Smith**  
**John Thomas**  
**Greg Vespa**  
**Larry Warren**

**Les Albert**  
**Dan Bauer**  
**Bob Capuani**  
**Jim Coffey**  
**Patrick Polick**  
**Daniel Starks**  
**Greg Yurevich**

**Mike Poel**

**Bernie Arends**  
**Tony Nichols**  
**Zaelon Rohwedder**

**Alix Armstead**  
**Terry R. Brown**  
**Milly Morales**

## Petroleum & Chemical Safety Division



Petroleum and Chemical Safety Division conducted annual training on November 5<sup>th</sup> through the 7<sup>th</sup> at OSFM's Springfield headquarters. The Division was created to manage problems caused by the thousands of underground storage tank systems containing petroleum or hazardous chemicals. The division regulates petroleum and chemical storage tanks through registration to ensure the protection of public health and safety. The division has registered more than 73,000 tanks in Illinois. Other duties include issuing permits for all tank installations, removals, repairs, upgrades, relining and abandonment-in-place. Eligibility and deductibility determinations are also made to determine if a tank owner can access the leaking underground storage tank fund. Inspectors in this division respond to petroleum and chemical leaks and as well as inspect approximately 3,400 underground storage tank facilities per year.

During the training Inspectors John Brohan and Doug Goldner received their badges!



*Doug Goldner & Scott Johnson*



*John Brohan & Scott Johnson*

## Petroleum & Chemical Safety Division

Fire Marshal Perez presented four Petroleum & Chemical Safety Inspectors with milestone years of service plaques during Petroleum and Chemical Safety Division training at OFSM's Springfield headquarters.



*Aaron Siegler-30 Years*



*Charles Southern - 20 Years*



*Mark Blough – 20 Years*



*Jim Coffey – 20 Years*



## SECA Soup Cook-Off Fundraiser



*Katherine Nunes – Judges' Choice Winner*



*Andrea Klees – People's Choice Winner*

OSFM held its annual soup cook-off on November 7<sup>th</sup> to support State and University Employees Combined Appeal (SECA) campaign. Established in 1983, SECA is a workplace giving campaign that allows State Employees to donate to nearly 1,500 charities at local, state, national and international levels. State employees have contributed over \$82 million dollars.

Proceeds from OSFM's Soup Cook-off were donated to Wounded Warrior Project.



*Judges sampling the soups*



## Coffee with the Fire Chief



*Coffee with the Fire Chief is a new video segment where OSFM will be highlighting small and volunteer departments across Illinois. The first segment visited Lincoln Rural Fire and Rescue in Lincoln, Illinois.*

*Coffee with the Chief videos can be found on OSFM's website:*

*<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/News/Pages/Coffee-with-the-Chief.aspx>*



## Winter Holiday Safety



Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.



### HOLIDAY DECORATING

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.



### HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



### Before Heading Out or to Bed

**Blow out** lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

### FACTS

- ! More than **one-third** of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ! More than **two of every five** decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



[nfpa.org/education](http://nfpa.org/education) ©NFPA 2019

## Put a Freeze on Winter Holiday Fires



It's fun to decorate for the winter holidays, but holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.



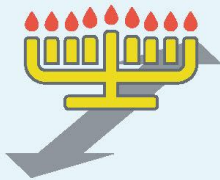
**More than half** of the home decoration fires in December are started by candles.



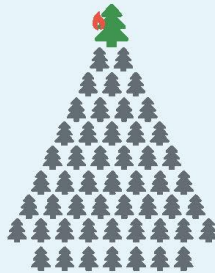
**More than 1/3** of home decoration fires are started by candles.



The top 3 days for home candle fires are **Christmas Day, New Year's Day** and **New Year's Eve**.



Keep candles at least **12 inches** away from anything that burns.



Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are dangerous.

On average, **1 of every 52** reported home Christmas tree fires resulted in death.



A heat source too close to the Christmas tree causes **1 in every 4** winter fires.



Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.



Make sure your tree is **at least 3 feet away** from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles or heat vents. Also, make sure your tree does not block exits.



Get rid of your tree after Christmas or when it is dry.



For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov/winter](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/winter) and [www.nfpa.org/winter](http://www.nfpa.org/winter).

## Life Safety Code Training in Aurora

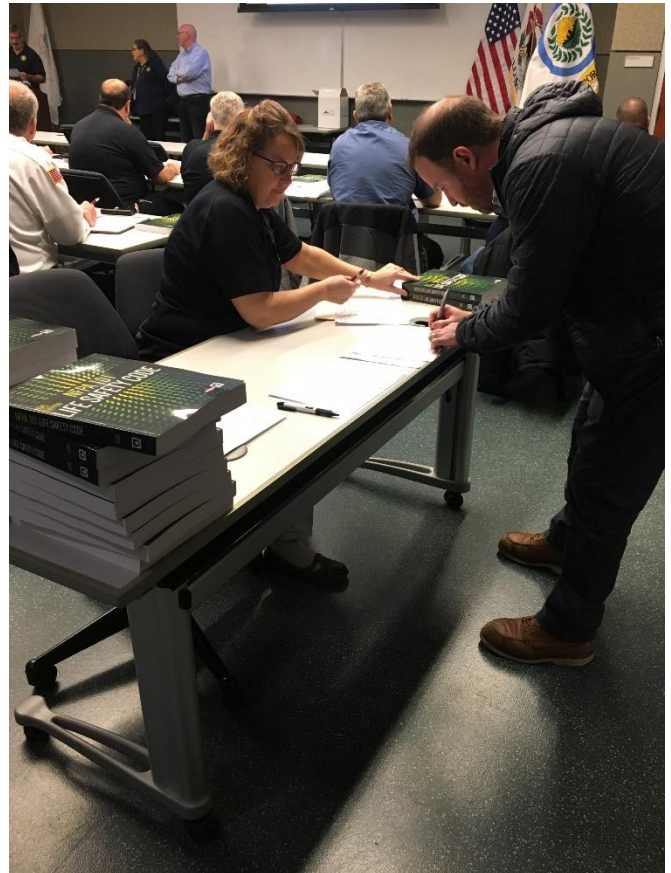


*OSFM has adopted the NFPA 2015 Edition of the Life Safety Code which takes effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>. OSFM conducted its first Life Safety Code training classes in Aurora on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Attendees learned about the changes from the 2000 edition to the 2015 edition. This serves as the state's minimum fire safety standard.*

*There are classes in Carterville on December 17<sup>th</sup> and in Springfield on December 18<sup>th</sup>. If you are a local AHJ and missed these classes, OSFM is planning a few more classes that will take place in early 2020. Watch OSFM's website and social media for future classes.*

*More information about the update to 2015 Edition of the Life Safety Code can be found here:*

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/Resources/Pages/Life-Safety-Code.aspx>



## Fire Advisory Committee Meeting in Springfield



*The Fire Advisory Committee (FAC) met at OSFM headquarters in Springfield on Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. The committee discussed:*

- *Progress on updating certification standards*
- *Reported back about Community Risk Reduction planning.*
- *Also discussed funding for firefighter mental health initiative and cancer awareness training.*

*At the end of the meeting Fire Marshal Perez thanked and honored Chairperson Chief Joe Holomy for his year of service as the Chair of the FAC. This was Joe's last meeting as Chair.*



## South Central Illinois Fire Chiefs Association



*Fire Marshal Perez and Senior Mitigation/Recovery Manager Les Albert attended the South Central Illinois Fire Chiefs Association meeting on Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. Fire Marshal Perez was available to answer questions about OSFM programs that are available to aid departments and to find out what challenges departments across South Central Illinois are facing.*

## Joliet “Be Alarmed” Event



*Fire Marshal Perez attended a “Be Alarmed” smoke alarm event in Joliet on Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.*



“Be Alarmed!” is a fire safety education and smoke alarm installation program administered cooperatively between Illinois Fire Safety Alliance (IFSA) and OSFM. The program distributes fire safety educational materials and 10-year concealed battery smoke alarms to fire departments in Illinois. The fire departments then deliver the education and install smoke alarms in at-risk homes within their communities. Educational materials and smoke alarms are provided at no cost to fire departments as a result of funding from IFSA and OSFM.

The goal of the program is to:

- Educate residents, young and old, on fire safety and prevention methods
- Reduce the number of fire-related injuries
- Reduce the number of fire-related deaths
- Identify the reason for non-functioning smoke alarms in homes across the state

More information can be found by visiting:

<https://www.ifsa.org/programs/alarms>

## Kids' Corner



**TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE** \_\_\_\_\_ HOLIDAY when all through the house,  
 not a creature was \_\_\_\_\_ VERB – PRESENT PARTICIPLE not even a mouse.  
 The smoke alarms were hung on the ceiling just right in hopes that \_\_\_\_\_ FAMOUS PERSON would test them tonight.  
 The children were nestled all snug in their beds, while visions of fire drills \_\_\_\_\_ VERB – PAST TENSE in their heads.  
 Before bed time they planned the fire escape route. They mapped it on \_\_\_\_\_ NOUN and planned two ways out.  
 When out in the street there arose such a clatter. I sprang from the \_\_\_\_\_ PIECE OF FURNITURE to see what was the matter.  
 I \_\_\_\_\_ VERB – PAST TENSE to the window and there I stayed, I tore open the \_\_\_\_\_ NOUN and rolled up the shade.  
 When what to my wondering \_\_\_\_\_ BODY PART should I see?  
 Our family meeting place right by the tree and also some \_\_\_\_\_ ANIMAL – PLURAL eating a snack.  
 But \_\_\_\_\_ FAMOUS PERSON was eagerly calling them back.  
 “Now \_\_\_\_\_ NAME! Now \_\_\_\_\_ NAME, Now \_\_\_\_\_ NAME and Vixen!  
 On \_\_\_\_\_ NAME, on \_\_\_\_\_ NAME, on \_\_\_\_\_ NAME and Blitzen!”  
 And then I heard the creak of the door! I went down to investigate and find out more.  
 There stood \_\_\_\_\_ FAMOUS PERSON! He didn’t move from his spot.  
 But said, “Forget about chimneys! That fire’s too hot!”  
 He gave me a wink and said, “Do not fear.” He tested our smoke alarms and waited to hear  
 the infamous warning of “Beep, Beep, Beep.” My family arose but he said, “Go back to sleep.”  
 “This is only a test to make sure alarms work.” He wiggled his \_\_\_\_\_ BODY PART and turned with a jerk.  
 But I heard him \_\_\_\_\_ VERB as he drove out of sight,  
 “Test you smoke alarms and practice, your fire escape drill tonight!”

 **SPARKY® IS A TRADEMARK OF THE NFPA.**

Happy Holidays!

Check out **Sparky.org** for more fun!

## Kids' Corner

# Holiday

## HIDDEN PICS

**SEE IF YOU CAN FIND:** ☐ golf club, ☐ piece of pie, ☐ coffee cup,  
☐ oven mit, ☐ pencil, ☐ 2 smoke alarms, ☐ bowling pin, ☐ ice cream cone,  
☐ swimming fin, ☐ dog bone, ☐ boot, ☐ toast, ☐ strawberry, ☐ battery,  
☐ comb, ☐ flower, ☐ spoon, ☐ the number "2" and a hot dog!



THE NAME AND IMAGE OF SPARKY ARE TRADEMARKS OF THE NFPA.

CHECK OUT **SPARKY.ORG** FOR MORE FUN!